

On The Record

Search warrant shuts down criminal marijuana operation in Yoncalla

A large-scale criminal marijuana grow operating under the guise of a legal hemp operation has been shut down by law enforcement in Douglas County.

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office and Douglas Inter-agency Narcotics Team (DINT) executed a search warrant in the 1000-block of Scotts Valley Road Wednesday, Sept. 1.

The warrant stemmed from an investigation into a large-scale black-market marijuana grow. Law enforcement became aware of the operation on tips from concerned citizens.

When law enforcement arrived, approximately 30-50 workers began fleeing the location on foot. An individual identified as "the manager" of the operation, 44-year-old Jose Francisco Figueroa-Aguilar of Modesto, California, was ultimately arrested and lodged at the Douglas County Jail on charges of Unlawful Possession and Unlawful Manufacture of Marijuana.

Deputies located multiple vehicles, tents and two RVs concealed under green houses and in the timber. The property was also found to be littered with garbage, fertilizer, containers and human waste; all of which were adjacent to Elk Creek.

Two large swimming pools were being utilized as water holding tanks being fed by water pumps from Elk Creek. The water pumps are required to be metered, but were not.

Approximately 150 greenhouses containing 49,152 marijuana plants were located on the property. Testing conducted on the marijuana throughout the grow revealed high levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). There were no hemp plants located anywhere on the property. The street value of the marijuana located is estimated to be \$50,000,000.

Harvesting of the marijuana plants had begun, however it did not appear that any of it had been released into the community before the execution of the search warrant.

Due to the sheer size of the illegal operation, law enforcement spent two days conducting eradication and destruction of the marijuana plants. The investigation is ongoing and additional charges may be pending.

Douglas County, as well as multiple other Oregon

counties are seeing a large number black-market marijuana grows which have been disguised as sanctioned hemp grows popping up in local communities. These operations are being financed and run by organized crime enterprises.

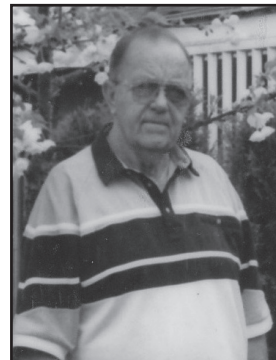
The Douglas County Sheriff's Office was assisted by DINT, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC), the Douglas County Water Master and the Douglas County Public Works Department.



Jose Francisco Figueroa-Aguilar was identified as "the manager" of the Yoncalla grow operation and lodged in the Douglas County Jail.

James H. Horton

1928-2021

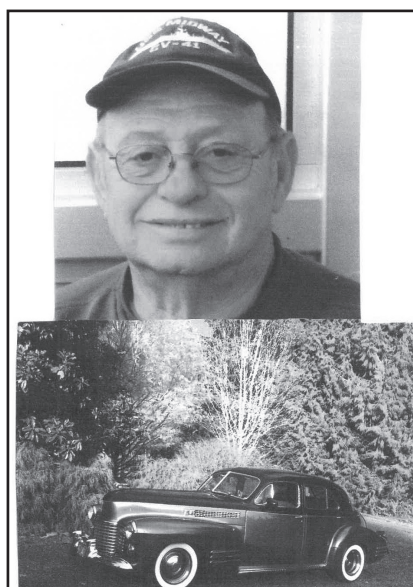


James H. Horton, 93, of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away on Sunday, August 8, 2021, from complications of surgery. He was born on June 9, 1928, in Cheyenne Wells, Colorado to Harvey and Ester (Anderson) Horton. James was one of ten siblings, all who have preceded him in death. James was in the United States Army for eight years. He then worked for the Boeing aircraft

company and the State of California Public School Employee System. He moved to Cottage Grove and lived with his uncle until his uncle's death. He was a member of Delight Valley Church of Christ and attended until he no longer could drive. Jim's cooking specialty was preparing a dozen Deviled Eggs to take to potlucks and other dinners. He always thought the eggs could be improved; however, there were never any leftovers. Jim loved to grow a garden to share with his friends and neighbors. His yard was always immaculate, green and full of flowers that he also shared with people. James will be cremated, and his ashes will be tossed into the Pacific Ocean (his words). A memorial service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church at 11:00AM on September 11, 2021.

Jerry Everett Maddux

1943-2021



Jerry Everett Maddux 78, of Cottage Grove, OR, passed away on September 1, 2021, peacefully at home with his wife by his side. Jerry was born February 8, 1943, in Bisbee, AZ. He grew up in Tucson, AZ. After graduating from high school, he joined the Navy and became an airplane mechanic. He served on the USS Midway during the Vietnam war. With an honorary discharge from the Navy, he went to work at United Airlines as a mechanic on the airplanes. When they went on strike one time, he started building furniture & cabinets, and found out he really liked that type of work. One day he saw an ad in the San Francisco newspaper, a cabinet shop for sale in Cottage Grove, OR. He got the map out to see where it was. He flew up here and ended up buying the cabinet shop. He left United Airlines 13 years to the day from when he started.

Jerry moved to Cottage Grove in 1979 just as the recession started. He struggled for a few years, but hung in there. He never had any formal training on building cabinets or furniture, he just had the talent to figure it out. His cabinets were beautiful, and he

was able to succeed for 27 years. Jerry was proud that he still had all of his fingers after 27 years.

He met his wife, Jean (Mather), at a wedding in Cottage Grove and they were married on June 26th, at 6:26pm (so he could remember) in 1993. They were married for 28 years.

After retirement in 2006, Jerry & Jean bought a motorhome and traveled all over the country from late fall to early Spring for 10 years. They have been to all the states on the mainland in the motorhome. They met lots of great people along the way and made a few lasting friends.

In 2010 he met the "Mistress" his wife allowed him to have!! He loved his 1941 Cadillac. He could be seen driving it around town every chance he could and driving in parades and cruises.

Jerry was a very lovable and funny guy. He was funny right up till the end. He could always make people laugh with his repertoire of jokes. He loved people.

Jerry leaves behind the "love of his life" Jean; his son Richard (Faun) Maddux of San Martin, CA; his daughter Rebecca (Erik) Knuth of Modesto, CA; two Stepsons, Brian Kelly of Vancouver, WA and Steven (Jenn) Kelly of Villanova, PA; six grandchildren, Kevin Lars, Jakob & Allison Knuth, Brand & Connor Kelly; three sisters, Carol (Bill) Irwin of San Diego, CA; Melvina Guyn, of Tucson, AZ; and Shirley Barnes, of North Port, FL; and many nieces & nephews.

A memorial service will be at the Walker Church, 32904 England Rd., Creswell, OR on September 11th at 11am. Pastor Randall Wood performing the service. Arrangements by Smith Lund Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium. Donations can be made to Greenhill Humane Society if you wish.

In Home Caregiver

All applicants will be considered for employment without regards to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and national origin. All applicants must have experience taking care of the elderly as well as a great attitude. As a caregiver, you must be able to pass a background check. For more enquiry about the Caregiver job, you can contact Mark (chillington@gmail.com)

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Open House Free Event

SEPT 14

Family Relief Nursery Located at 720 N 14th St. Cottage Grove, OR 97424
From 4-6 pm. Contact us at 541-942-4835

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ESTAN INVITADOS UNIRSE CON NOSOTROS PARA COMIDA GRATIS, ACTIVIDADES DE FAMILIA Y PREMIOS!!

Casa Abierta Evento Gratis

SEPT 14

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4-6 pm. Para Contactarse llama a 541-942-4835

PARA SU FAMILIA

CASA DE REBOTE, CUARTO DE PELICULA Y ACTIVIDADES

Yard of the Week

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Week of September 9th Winner is: 2251 W. Harrison Avenue
Yards will be selected each week by nominations.
To nominate a yard you can call City Hall (942-5501) or Chamber of Commerce (942-2411)